

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /026 W

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R 150930Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5474

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9697

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR -- PAN AM CARGO REQUEST

REF: STATE 159799

1. IN LINE WITH REFTEL ADCM MET JULY 15 WITH TOURISM SEC AND PHIL CAB CHAIRMAN ASPIRAS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR RESOLVING DISPUTE. NOTING THAT BY RESOLUTION OF JUNE 27 (NO. 190(75)) PHIL CAB HAD DEFERRED ACTION ON PANAM'S PETITION, ADCM SAID A DEFERRAL PER SE WAS NOT OBJECTIONABLE, IF IT APPEARED THAT ACTION COULD BE REASONABLY SOON. INDEFINITE DEFERRAL, HOWEVER, WOULD LOOK LIKE DENIAL BY DELAY.

2. ASPIRAS TOOK THE POINT, BUT SAID HIS HANDS WERE TIED UNLESS HE COULD BRING PAL AROUND AND GET THE PALACE TO GIVE HIM INSTRUCTIONS. HE OFFERED TO INITIATE REVIEW OF THE ISSUES WITH PAL PROMPTLY -- JULY 18 -- AND ASKED ADCM TO OUTLINE WHAT MIGHT BE SAID. TO PAL. ADCM COMMENTED, AS HE ALSO HAD COMMENTED RECENTLY TO EXEC SEC MELCHOR, THAT THERE WERE NO, RPT NO NAGGING WORRIES IN THE CIVAIR FIELD AT THE MOMENT OTHER THAN THE PANAM PERMIT. IT WOULD APPEAR IN FACT THAT IF THIS IMPASSE COULD BE SETTLED AMICABLY WE MIGHT ENJOY A FAIRLY EXTENDED PERIOD OF PEACE WHILE OUR RESPECTIVE CARRIERS CAUGHT UP WITH THE IMPACT OF RECENT CAPACITY CHANGES AND OTHER OPERATING FACTORS. MELCHOR AND ASPIRAS ASKED HOW LONG THIS MIGHT BE, AND ADCM SUGGESTED POSSIBLY 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS, BUT
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THIS WOULD NOT BE MEANT TO PRECLUDE DISCUSSION OF ANY REAL

CHANGE IN OPERATING SITUATIONS IN THE MEANTIME. IT APPEARED MERELY A REASONABLE PERIOD TO GAIN EXPERIENCE WITH THE PRESENT CAPACITY REGIME. ASPIRAS AND MELCHOR APPEARED TO FIND PROSPECT OF PEACE ON THIS FRONT ENTICING, BUT THEY WER NOT READY TO COMMIT PAL.

3. FURTHER TO ASPIRAS QUESTION O WHAT TO LAY OUT TO PAL, ADCM INDICATED THAT A FLAT AND UNSUPPORTED REFUSAL OF PAN AM REQUEST WOULD NOT GO OVER. IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION FROM ASPIRAS, ADCM SAID THAT IF REQUEST REFUSED, THE ACTION WOULD NEED TO BE BASED ON ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATIONS WHICH WOULD STAND UP UNDER CHALLENGE AND SCRUTINY IN THE CAB. TO QUESTION, "WHAT ABOUT A QUID PRO QUO." ADCM SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENTLY MODEST PAN AM REQUEST WAS SO CLEARLY WITHIN THE INTENT OF THE 1974 AGREEMENT THAT A QUID PRO QUO WOULD SEEM ENTIRELY OUT OF ORDER. IF ANY SIGNIFICANT GAINS TO PAL WERE PROPOSED WE WOULD BE IN A NEW BALL GAME.

4. ASPIRAS REPEATED THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE ISSUES WITH PAL AND WOULD DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES WITH ADCM IN NEXT WEEK OR SO.

5. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE, PROGRESS ON THIS PROBLEM, IF ATTAINABLE AT ALL, COMES IN MILLIMETERS. HOWEVER, ASPIRAS ON THIS OCCASION WAS A GOOD DEAL MORE ATTENTIVE AND A GOOD DEAL LESS BLUSTERY THAN HE HAS BEEN IN PAST SESSIONS. UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS STRONG RESERVATIONS, THEREFORE, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO GIVE THIS GAMBIT A LITTLE TIME TO WORK.
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